

God's Work Our Hands 2022



Message from the Lead Minister

When I was a child, a Sunday school teacher taught me to pray using my open hand as a guide. This form of prayer – often referred to as the Five Finger Prayer – is attributed to Pope Francis, long before he was the pope.

- **Thumb:** Pray for those closest to you – your family and friends.
- **Pointer:** Pray for those that point you in the right direction, teach you and show you the way. Ask that they be given wisdom and support.
- **Index:** (tallest) Pray for our leaders around the world. Ask that they be given guidance and wisdom.
- **Ring:** (weakest) Pray for those who are weak, sick, vulnerable or in pain.
- **Pinky:** Pray for yourself and your own needs. You are a child of God.

As we give thanks to God for this year of ministry at Islington United Church, I invite you to use your open hand to remember the following in prayer and gratitude:

Thumb – Serving those closest to us through Hospitality opportunities, Mabelle Food Program, connections with our neighbours, German International School Toronto (GIST), welcoming visitors and regulars who sing and pray together, providing sacred outdoor space such as the Giving and Heart Gardens

Pointer – Learning together and pursuing bold discipleship opportunities through Faith Formation, Godly Play, Bible Study, Islington Reads, online Lenten Learning and lecture series

Index – Supporting our many leaders, including Church Council and its many committees, the Board of Trustees and our staff, in making hard decisions, setting faithful direction and choosing daring justice

Ring – Caring for the sick and vulnerable pastorally through the Prayer Team, the online prayer wall, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Care Card Ministry and phone calls, food and flowers, Bear Care Ministry, grief groups and more

Pinky – Exploring pathways to deep spirituality through worship and music in person and online, Week of Guided Prayer, Healing Pathway and Meditation.

One hand showing incredible impact through giving and service, and another open hand ready for something new.

We as a community have stayed, and will continue to stay, open to what is next, to what we are receiving from the Spirit. God has provided, and God will continue to provide.

God has given us hope, and hope is what we reach for.

Christ offered his life for the healing of the world, and invited us to be his hands and feet in the world. Each of us has a place in this story, a place that is life-giving, creative and full of growth.

God’s work – our hands is an invitation for us to reconnect, reimagine and rebuild together in faith, the world needs it, we need it, it matters.

Rev. Maya Landell
Lead Minister

Church Council

- Carole Bennett**, Chair, Representative, Shining Waters Regional Council

Steve Tower, Vice-chair

Reverend Maya Landell, Lead Minister

Heather Childs, Secretary (to Oct 2021)

John Leavitt, Treasurer

David Allen, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

Isla Grady, Chair, Hospitality Committee Representative, United Church Women

Jack Grady, Chair, Pastoral Care Committee
- Jason Locke**, Minister of Music; Acting Chair, Worship and Music Committee

Laurie Lyle, Manager of Operations

Peggy Sheffield, Chair, Communications Committee

Jill Stewart, Representative, Board of Trustees

Sandra Tully, Chair, Faith Formation Committee

Janet Wells, Chair, Facilities Committee

Carol Wilson, Lead, Social Justice Network

Message from Church Council

At the start of my two-year term as Chair of Church Council in October 2020, Council members decided where we needed to focus our ministry:

- Live through and beyond the pandemic in safe and meaningful ways
- Move into our redefined neighbourhood (geographic and online) to provide spiritual nurture and meet tangible needs
- Discern and prepare for where God is calling us next

I am deeply grateful to the members and friends of this congregation, our Church Council, trustees, committees and groups, and our gifted staff for the meaningful work they have done this year and during my term to sustain Islington United Church – our hands doing God's work.

Hands knitting comforting prayer shawls and warm mitts and hats
Hands packing bags of groceries for ever-growing numbers of people in need
Hands welcoming newcomers to worship both online and in person
Hands preparing policies, guidelines, instructions to keep us safe
Hands creating experiences for our children to learn about God
Hands holding hymnals and anthems to sing joyfully
Hands giving offerings and raising funds to sustain our ministry
Hands delivering poinsettias and violets to homebound friends
Hands preparing newsletters and more to help keep us all connected
Hands helping refugees make their new home in Canada
Hands serving after funerals to those who mourn
Hands making our building and property safe and beautiful
Hands reaching out to discover where God may be calling us next
Hands cultivating and harvesting vegetables to help feed our neighbours
Hands blessing couples in marriage and children in baptism
Hands folded in prayer – in gratitude, in supplication, in hope

These and the countless other expressions of our faith remind us of who we are and whose we are as we move into God's future for Islington United Church.

Carole Bennett

Church Council Chair

2022 Highlights

Pandemic Response

In 2022, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) continued to implement COVID-19 safety protocols exceeding those mandated by the government. They committed to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community and kept abreast of current data to manage risks to anyone entering the building.

Children's Music

In 2022, the Music Ministry relaunched the choral program. The Children's Chorus (7-12 years) was the most active over the year, practising outdoors in the fall and moving indoors as the weather became colder. The Music Ministry team planned and promoted a Summer Music Camp for children and youth.

Online Outreach

In 2022, the Communications Ministry grew our online presence and reach. The open rate of our messages increased by 9% compared to the previous year and was 18% above the industry average. We reached more than 44,000 people on Facebook and established a steady presence on Instagram and Twitter. On social media we reached audiences outside of Canada in at least nine other countries. Approximately 12,400 people joined us for online worship.

Safety Upgrades

The Facilities Committee did a comprehensive inspection of the church building and property with a focus on health and safety. Work was needed in two areas: electrical safety and compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, and trip/fall hazards outside. Most of the identified work has been completed.

Social Justice

The Anti-Racism Working Group presented a speaker series on Racism in the Church. The Mabelle Food Program served an increasing number of clients. The Affirm Team held its first Pride Sunday BBQ and Celebration. The Poverty Awareness Group continued its work to learn and educate about poverty issues.

Program Highlights and Growth

Our Staff Team

The Reverend Maya Landell
Lead Minister

James Aitchison
Pastoral Care Ministry Lead

Leslee Armstrong
Ministry Support Administrator

Lorraine Fait
Administrative Assistant

Jason Locke
Minister of Music

Laurie Lyle
Manager of Operations

Randee Marquez
Communications Ministry Specialist

Cynthia Smithers
Children and Families Ministry Coordinator

By the Numbers in 2022

54 programs and events offered

77 engaged in worship and programs
children

45 reached on social media
thousand

12 met weekly in person
meditators

12.4 joined worship services online
thousand

8 newcomers visitors at worship weekly

Community Care



48

prayer shawls distributed to those in need of comfort, hope and healing

6,690

individuals supported through the Mabelle Food Program -- an increase of 77% over 2020



285

flower deliveries to those who needed a reminder of our love and caring

775

volunteer hours offered by those helping in the Giving Garden, indoors and outdoors



1

refugee family from Jordan - a mother and five children - welcomed and settled in Canada

141

people of all ages attended the Affirm Team's first Pride Sunday BBQ and Celebration

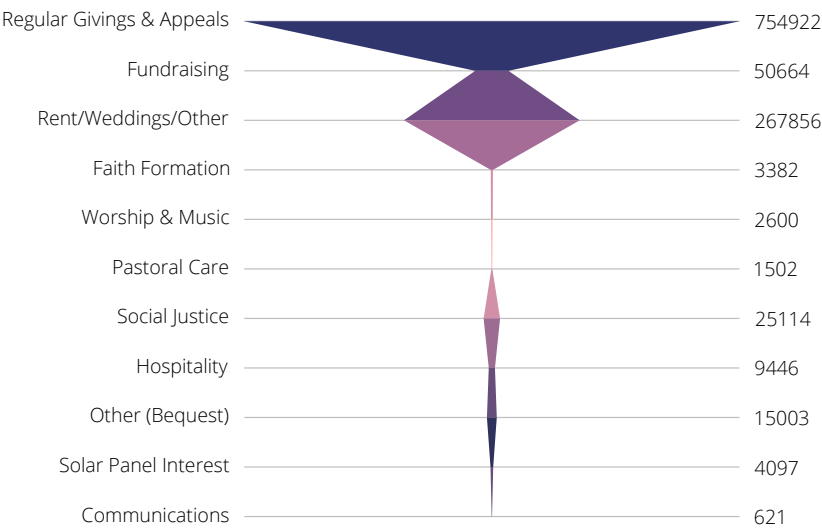


Hospitality

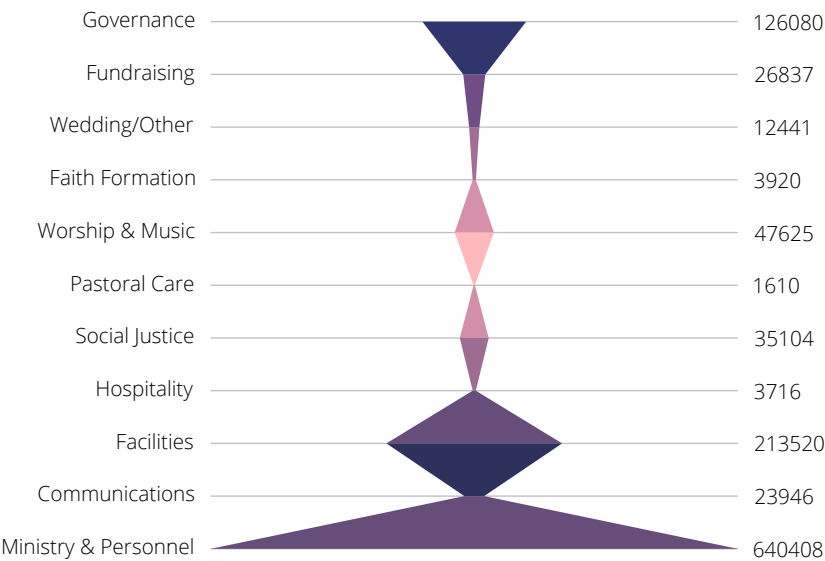
- 12 memorial celebrations
- 2000+ cookies baked for homebound friends and events
- 200+ soup deliveries
- 500+ served at outdoor events
- 70+ served dinner each week at children and youth programs

2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE \$1,135,207



OPERATING EXPENSES \$1,135,207



[Click here for a copy of the Financial Statements prepared by Adams & Miles LLP](#)

Message from the Board of Trustees

The Reverend Maya Landell (Chair), Jackie Carter, Don Hunter, Joan Hunter, Laura Johnston, John Leavitt, Laurie Lyle (Secretary, non-voting), Ian McPherson, Jill Stewart, Paul Summers, Ted Wilson.
Honourary member: Fred Leslie.

We are grateful for the dedicated years of service of Don Hunter, who is stepping down as a Trustee and the Vice-chair of the Board of Trustees. He has led faithfully for over two decades.

The Board of Trustees has oversight and responsibility for Islington's financial investments and holds the property in trust on behalf of The United Church of Canada. As a congregation we are grateful for the ways that people have contributed to our ministry by creating their own Legacy of Faith – making a bequest in their will, donating gifts of securities, providing a gift annuity or making memorial or celebration gifts in honour of others.

Legacy of Faith gifts are directed primarily to three funds: The Memorial Fund honours people's legacy gifts primarily through capital improvements to the church building. The Discipleship Fund supports initiatives which deepen people's spirituality and lives of faith. The Good Neighbour Fund supports initiatives that make a difference within our local community and beyond. Please consider making a Legacy of Faith gift that will keep on giving.

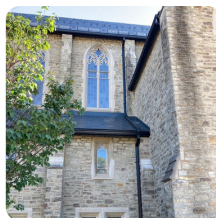
2022 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



**Health & Safety,
Phase 1**
Electrical upgrades



**Health & Safety,
Phase 1**
Stair repairs



New eavestroughs

**Health & Safety
Project, Phase 1**
\$24,762

Eavestroughs
\$40,786

Who We Are

Mission

To be an open, friendly and caring church where all people are invited to discover, explore and develop their spirituality in Christ's name and to participate fully in the life and work of the congregation regardless of age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and physical or mental ability.

Values

- Deep Spirituality**
- Bold Discipleship**
- Daring Justice**

Solidarity Statement

We, at Islington United Church, are an Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada.

We are committed to including everyone: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited persons and others (2SLGBTQIA+); those who are marginalized for any reason, including race or age; economically disadvantaged; developmentally or physically challenged.

We stand in solidarity with Black and Indigenous communities and all people of colour in our community, our country and throughout the world.

We acknowledge that racial injustice is pervasive throughout society. We oppose all forms of racism and racialized violence.

In Memoriam

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

**Doris Allen
Elizabeth Banks
Briccio Cabaraban
Terry Gora
Theresa Goughnour
Jane Howell
Anne Howlett
Lillian Kryzanowski
Donald Littleproud
Jean MacLennan
Patricia McRae
Helen Oldham
Irene Ross
Betty Saunders
Marilyn Torrance**





Islington United Church

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

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